

Resources

For a referral to low cost or free legal service in your area (if you qualify) call the Coordinated Legal education, Advice and Referral (CLEAR) system for Washington State:

CLEAR

888-201-1014

Or go to: www.washingtonlawhelp.org

Laws

- Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)
- Section 459A(a) of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act 42.U.S.C 659A(a)

Web sites

To contact other states go to:

www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cse/extinf.htm#exta or

Courts

www.courts.wa.gov/

Division of Child Support

www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/

E-mail

DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov

International child support questions

**ocseinternational@acf.hhs.gov
travel.state.gov/law/info/info_608.html**

**Call the DCS office nearest you or call
800-442-KIDS (5437) to find the office
handling your case.**

DCS Offices

Everett **800-729-7580**
425-438-4800

Fife **866-243-4449**
253-922-0454

Kennewick **800-345-9981**
509-374-2000

Olympia **800-345-9964**
360-664-6900

Seattle **800-526-8658**
206-341-7000

Spokane **800-345-9982**
509-363-5000

Tacoma **800-345-9976**
253-597-3700

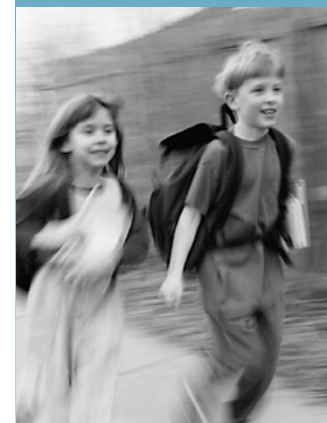
Vancouver **800-345-9984**
360-696-6100

Wenatchee **800-535-1113**
509-886-6800

Yakima **800-441-0859**
509-249-6000

Headquarters **800-457-6202**
360-664-5000

Collecting Child Support Across State Lines



DCS Division of Child Support

Can I collect child support if the other parent is in another state?

Yes. When the other parent lives in another state the Division of Child Support (DCS) may send a notice for wage withholding and health insurance directly to the employer.

Sometimes, DCS asks other states for help enforcing a support case. When we send a referral to another state, we cannot tell the other state how to work the case. Each state has its own child support laws and policies.

DCS can also collect from a parent in Washington State for a custodial parent living in another state.

How do I ask DCS for services?

If you receive public assistance from Washington State, DCS is already working to collect support. DCS may ask you to update information about the other parent’s address or employer.

If you do not receive public assistance, DCS provides enforcement services for you upon written request. You can get forms online at www1.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/services3.shtml#near.

How long will it take to collect child support from another state?

If DCS asks the other state for help, it may take six months or longer. It takes longer if the other parent:

- Moves from job to job.
- Changes residences frequently.
- Is not employed and does not receive unemployment compensation.
- Works for cash.
- Is self-employed.
- Receives public assistance.

- Is in jail or a rehabilitation facility.
- Lives on an Indian reservation.
- Is employed by a tribe, tribal enterprise, or an Indian-owned business located on an Indian reservation or trust land.

What if the other state is not successful?

In all cases, both states continue to check federal, state, and local resources for the other parent’s address and assets.

Is there a charge for these services?

At this time, Washington provides free child support services. After October 1, 2007 DCS may charge a fee.

If another state helps collect support, that state might charge fees or recover the costs of their services. A state may charge the paying parent or the custodial parent. They may take these charges out of support collected from the paying parent.

Can the other state change the support payment amount or the amount of back support the other parent owes me?

States must honor orders, as they are written, by another state. All states enforce only one order for the same parties. At any time, either parent can petition for a modification of the monthly child support amount.

All information in DCS records is confidential

You can have someone (a relative, friend or legal representative) call DCS on your behalf. We can answer general questions for anyone, but we cannot discuss specific case details unless we have your written permission.

Can I collect child support if the other parent lives in another country?

Sometimes, DCS has international agreements that allow us to work with the following countries and territories to collect child support:

Austria	Australia
Canada	Czech Republic
Germany	Hungary
Ireland	Netherlands
Norway	Poland
Portugal	Republic of Africa
Slovak Republic	Sweden
Switzerland	United Kingdom
Guam	Puerto Rico
Virgin Islands	

I do not have a support order. How do I get one?

DCS can establish a support order even if the other parent does not live here. To receive an application for support enforcement services, call 800-442-KIDS (5437) or call the office nearest you listed on the back of this brochure or on line at: www1.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/services3.shtml#near.